

# San Juan County

Founded in 1880, San Juan County has long been famous for its beautiful scenery and harsh desert climate. Early white settlers found the land hard to farm due to the temperamental nature of the seasons in the area. Ranchers did somewhat better, though they also faced a hard challenge from the elements and the terrain.

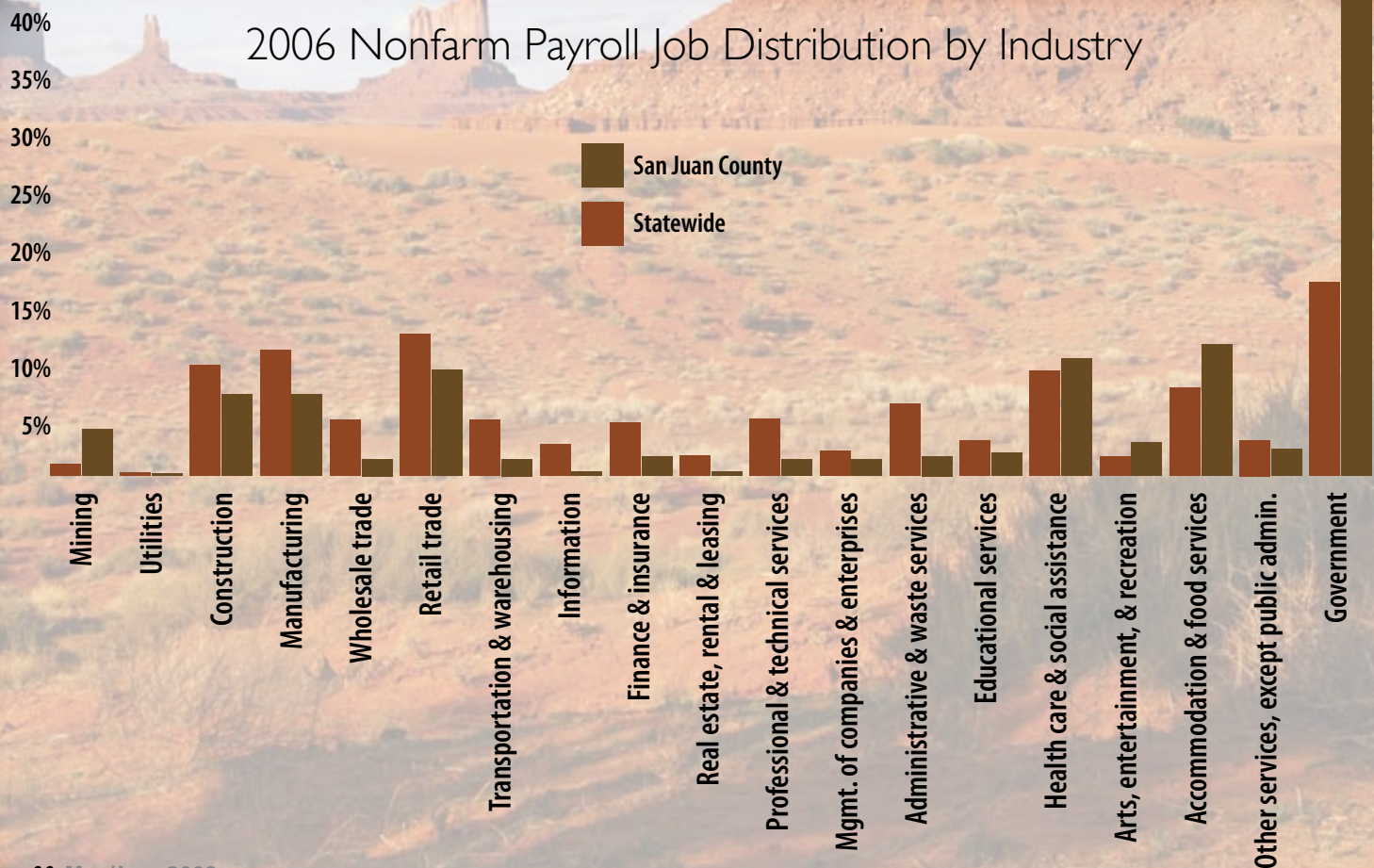
Oil and gas exploration at the turn of the century and a uranium boom prompted by the growing Cold War in the 1950s provided economic impetus for

the county. However, in more recent times the county has depended on the government for jobs. Compared with a state average of 17 percent government employment, more than 4 in 10 jobs in the county derive from government entities.

The county is home to the Utah branch of the Navajo Nation, which explains why American Indians account for more than 50 percent of the population of the county. This makes San Juan County one of the most diverse counties in the state. While population estimates from the U.S.

Census Bureau show the population of the county growing slightly between 1990 and 2000, between 2000 and 2006 similar estimates show the population contracting somewhat. ⓘ

## 2006 Nonfarm Payroll Job Distribution by Industry



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services